

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-1846V

UNPUBLISHED

SYLVIA LYONS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 6, 2023

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Amy A. Senerth, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.*

*Nina Ren, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On December 14, 2020, Sylvia Lyons filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRV”) as a result of influenza and prevnar vaccines she received on September 17, 2019. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On December 13, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On February 3, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$72,500.00 in pain and suffering plus \$204.91 to satisfy a State of Illinois Medicaid lien. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award.

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

*Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award the following:**

- **Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$72,500.00 in pain and suffering, paid in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.**
- **An amount of \$204.91 in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Collections/Technical Recovery Section, P.O. Box 19174, Springfield, IL 62794-9174.**

These amounts represent compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

	)	
SYLVIA LYONS,	)	
	)	No. 20-1846V ECF
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
	)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND	)	
HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

On December 13, 2022, respondent filed a Vaccine Rule 4(c) report concluding that petitioner suffered an injury that is compensable under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 to -34, that is, a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table. *See* ECF No. 30. Accordingly, that same day, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement. *See* ECF Nos. 31.

### A. Pain and Suffering

### B. Medicaid Lien

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded funds to satisfy the State of Illinois Medicaid lien in the amount of **\$204.91**, which represents full satisfaction of any right of subrogation, assignment, claim, lien, or cause of action the State of Illinois may have against any

individual as a result of any Medicaid payments the State of Illinois has made to or on behalf of petitioner from the date of her eligibility for benefits through the date of judgment in this case as a result of her alleged vaccine-related injury suffered on or about September 17, 2019, under Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

The above amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

## **II. Form of the Award**

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through two lump sum payments described below, and request that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:<sup>1</sup>

- A. A lump sum payment of **\$72,500.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner; and
- B. A lump sum payment of **\$204.91**, representing compensation for satisfaction of the State of Illinois Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and:

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services  
Collections/Technical Recovery Section  
P.O. Box 19174  
Springfield, IL 62794-9174

Petitioner agrees to endorse the check to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services for satisfaction of the Medicaid lien.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.

C. SALVATORE D’ALESSIO  
Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

TRACI R. PATTON  
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/s/ NINA Y. REN  
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DATED: February 3, 2023